**Petplan Equine Area Festival Awards Winners**

**Inspirational Star – Frodo and Sue**

As a traditional gypsy cob, Frodo isn't a 'typical' dressage horse. Frodo is 18 years old and Sue currently competes the 15.2hh piebald gelding at Intermediate I, "Frodo and I have been together since he was four," comments Sue. However, their journey together hasn't always been the smoothest, "four years ago Frodo had a severe case of laminitis. We didn't know if he would ever be sound again, let alone back in the dressage arena. Following six months box rest and in-hand walking, Frodo started his comeback."

Sue had hoped Frodo would recover well, but never did she imagine the level to which they would rise.

"Every level I have competed at I wondered if that would be as far as he could progress. I am very conscious that he has to work twice as hard to perform the more advanced movements and he really does put in 100% effort every time."

Image credit: David Cameron Photography

**Surprise Star – Mimi and Caroline**

From an emaciated rescue cob to qualifying for the Area Festivals, Mimi is certainly a surprise star. . “Mimi’s advances in dressage have been quite unexpected, she was originally meant to be a companion for another horse.”

Caroline rescued Mimi when she was about a year old after she was saved by the RSPCA Two years after their first dressage outing, Caroline decided to give the Petplan Equine Area Festivals a try, “Mimi and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at our first Area Festival this year. We didn’t get into the top ten but that hasn’t put me off. She is only six and I know we have all the time in the world to progress further.”

Image credit: Lottie Elizabeth

**Support Star – Brendan Tegg**

Competing up to Prix St. Georges himself, Brendan also trains several Area Festival competitors. Commenting on his work ethic, one client said, “he encourages all abilities to get involved. He is always truly happy when I have improved and performed a movement correctly. He wants the horse and rider to work harmoniously and confidently.”

As well as training Area Festival riders, Brendan competes in the series himself. Recently, Brendan spent all day at an Area Festival helping his clients before competing at Advanced Medium. His dedication has not gone unnoticed, with one client commenting, “I honestly feel I could never have come this far without Brendon he is a true star.”

Image credit: Jasmine Punter Photography

**Progressive Star – Crunchie and Clare**

Clare balances her busy job as a full-time veterinary surgeon with her horses, who she keeps on a DIY yard on a local farm. Clare has progressed through the levels of the Petplan Equine Area Festivals with her 13 year old Oldenberg gelding, Cascento (Crunchie), from Preliminary to Prix St Georges (PSG).

Clare bought her "dancing partner", Crunchie, with the intention of eventing him but soon realised he was not an eventer and decided to focus her efforts on dressage. The pair have three regional titles, have attended seven British Dressage National Championships and represented their region and England at five Home Internationals.

Image credit: Joanne Reynolds

"We did our first Intermediate I a few weeks ago and we managed to qualify Intermediate I and PSG for an Area Festival Final."

**Perseverance Star – Linda Clark**

Linda Clark was delighted when she found out she had won the Petplan Equine Area Festival Perseverance Star Award as she had no idea her husband, Ben, had nominated her and Irish Sports Horse, Tankmore Boy (Teddy). Described by her husband as the 'embodiment of hard work and dedication', Linda has had a testing few years with Teddy but through sheer determination the pair have recently qualified for an Area Festival Final and are looking forward to stepping up to Novice level.

Image credit: Ben Clark

"Teddy and I have had our fair share of ups and downs. Which has included significant time off for Teddy for Gastric Ulcers, a tooth removal and a severe foot abscess. I have also had a few knocks to my confidence along the way."

Following Teddy’s recovery, the pair qualified for the 2019 Pachesham Area Festival where they came seventh qualifying for an Area Festival Final at Prelim level. “I think I cried throughout the presentation,” beams Linda.